Grants to NGOs

3432. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of grant released to different Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) since 2005-06 to 2008-09 and for what purpose/programme;

(b) what were the value addition and contribution by NGOs to the programme;

(c) whether his Ministry is funding only in select innovative activities; and

(d) if so, the achievements made in those activities, Activity-wise and the manner in which that has helped the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Quantum of grant released to various NGOs/programmes since 2005-06 to 2008-09 is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2005-06	7574.49
2006-07	7223.02
2007-08	7373.01
2008-09	7721.03

As per the National Education Policy 1986 (as modified in 1992), Non Government and Voluntary effort including social activist groups will be encouraged and provided with financial assistance. NGOs are accordingly encouraged to participate in various schemes for the promotion of literacy and education related activities with a view to complement and supplement the efforts of the Government and have generally contributed in reaching targeted groups as the grass root level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reduction of customs duty on ship breaking

3433. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has reconsidered the request of the State Government of Gujarat for reducing customs duty on ship breaking from 5 per cent to 0 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that imposition of customs duty is adversely affecting the industry to compete with others; and

(d) if so, by when the exemption on customs duty would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the budgetary process for the budget 2009-10, the Union Government re-examined the representation of Government of Gujarat and ship breaking industry in Gujarat was facing stiff competition and decline due to increase in price of ships, liberal duty concessions in neighbouring countries, environmental regulations and internal competition from finished steel and melting scrap. However, it was not found possible to accede to the request for full exemption.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Access to higher education

3434. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small fraction of students, after obtaining graduation degrees in professional education, can enter into higher education;

(b) whether the main reasons are the presence of stiff competition in Government institutions and of heavy amount of donation, direct or indirect in the case of private institutions; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to provide higher education in all deserving cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Higher Education includes post-senior secondary professional and technical education and, therefore, a student who has obtained a 'graduate' degree in professional education has already entered the realm of higher education. Charging of capitation fees by private institutions is prohibited as per the judgement of the Supreme Court in the matter of P.A. Inamdar and Others *Vs* State of Maharashtra and Others.

In order to increase access to higher education, the Government has embarked, in the Eleventh Plan, major expansion programmes by way of establishment of new Central Universities, new institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research and Schools of Planning and Architecture. New schemes for setting up of model degree colleges with Central-State partnership in districts with Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) less than the National GER, and incentivising State Governments of setting up or expansion of educational institutions have been envisaged. A scheme to provide interest subsidy on the loans taken by students belonging to the economically backward classes under the educational loan scheme of the Indian Banks' Association for pursuing professional education in India, is under consideration of the Government.